

## Section 1. 2005 Performance and Progress Report

This section presents the State of Idaho's Nonpoint Source Management Program *Assessment Report of Program and Project Management* for the period January 1 through December 31, 2005. The Idaho Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) administers the program for the state.

### Introduction

The *Clean Water Act* (CWA), section 319(h) requires EPA to make an annual determination of satisfactory progress in meeting the milestones of each states' nonpoint source management plan. A part of this determination is based on an annual report, created by the state, that assesses the performance and progress made by the NPS Program toward meeting the goals of the CWA. The annual report assesses the program's progress toward meeting the goal of achieving, maintaining, and restoring clean water.

### Overview of the Idaho Nonpoint Source Program

Congress established the national NPS Program in 1987, when it amended the *Clean Water Act* with section 319, *Nonpoint Source Management Programs*. States were given the federally-funded mandate to address NPS water pollution by 1) conducting statewide assessments of their waters, 2) developing NPS management programs to address identified impaired or threatened waters, and 3) implementing EPA-approved, federally-funded NPS management programs to clean up and prevent NPS pollution.

In accordance with the congressional mandate, DEQ places strong emphasis on assuring that section 319 funds are directed to on-the-ground projects that prevent, reduce, or eliminate NPS pollution in Idaho's surface water and groundwater. In Idaho, NPS funding has resulted in over 147 subgrant agreements for on-ground projects since 1998; while a few of these projects are aimed at statewide pollution reduction *education*, the great majority are designed to clean up and prevent NPS pollution, resulting in measurable pollution reduction.

### Scope of the Idaho Nonpoint Source Program

Idaho currently oversees 51 active, on-going projects, each of which is described through formal *subgrant agreements* established between DEQ and a variety of project sponsors, including federal and state agencies, counties, municipalities, nonprofit organizations, and private individuals.

### Assessing Program Performance

The Idaho NPS Program has adopted the goals and objectives of the 1999 *Idaho Nonpoint Source Management Plan* (1999 NPS Plan), which provide the structure for annual work plans to administer the program.

### Watersheds Provide the Framework of the Program Methodology

The NPS Program, which is organized by watershed, operates as follows:

- ❖ Targeting water quality standards and following approved guidance, rules, and laws
- ❖ Formulating watershed plans through sound science, as provided through such mechanisms as total maximum daily loads (TMDLs), drinking water and source water protection plans, and ground water management plans

- ❖ Implementing TMDLs, drinking/source water protection plans, and ground water management plans
- ❖ Evaluating projects and approved watershed plans through project monitoring, watershed monitoring, and various forms of effectiveness monitoring

## **Program Emphasis and Focus**

The great majority of DEQ projects focus on nonpoint source pollution associated with agriculture. DEQ identifies NPS water pollution as primarily occurring within six categories:

- ❖ Agriculture
- ❖ Mining
- ❖ Logging
- ❖ Urban storm water
- ❖ Transportation
- ❖ Groundwater

At EPA's request, for the past three years DEQ has stressed the need for measurable calculations of load reductions for sediment, phosphorous, and nitrogen. While most projects are focused at a particular site or stream segment, every opportunity is taken to ensure that site-specific projects are nested within the subwatershed and watershed scales of a given river basin. Therefore, the pollution load reduction from each project within a watershed can be combined to generate a cumulative load reduction over the entire basin.

## **Public Participation**

Public participation is a major element of the NPS Program, achieved through interaction with public advisory groups as outlined in Idaho water quality statutes. Both Watershed Advisory Groups (WAGs) and Basin Advisory Groups (BAGs) are required to review, comment, recommend, and participate in the implementation of all projects.

In addition, coordination with local, state, and federal agencies, entities, and governments is critical to the success of all projects. The identification and support of designated management agencies is essential to ensure the closing of the feedback loop, project-by-project, at the habitat and watershed scales throughout each of the six river basins of the state.

## **Providing Technical Support to Projects**

The Idaho NPS Program provides technical support to project sponsors and facilitates cooperative engagements with agency partners in implementing the nonpoint source and ecological restoration activities through such actions as the following:

- ❖ Leading by example at the state level and acting as the lead agency and program for facilitating and coordinating the implementation of the 1999 NPS Plan
- ❖ Coordinating consistent activities that benefit surface water and ground water as they relate to all six categories of NPS pollution
- ❖ Encouraging the enhancement of natural resource partnerships and interagency collaboration through educational opportunities and information or knowledge transfer

- ❖ Enhancing program implementation by way of revising agreements—such as memoranda of understanding (MOUs)—that support the 1999 NPS Plan
- ❖ Ensuring statewide consistency for base-level implementation activities related to TMDLs, drinking water, and ground water, including technical support, education, and information transfer
- ❖ Providing load reduction estimate calculations for sediment, phosphorus, and nitrogen through a variety of EPA approved models and methods.

## Statewide Program and Project Administration

Statewide, the NPS program and the individual projects are coordinated through the following tasks, each of which can be measured in terms of “outputs.”

### Task 1: State office grant and project management

- Output 1a. The Program administers approximately \$15 million in multiple years of grant funding. Grants from 1997 and 1998 were closed out in 2004, and approximately \$500,000 was carried over to the 2000 grant through work plan amendment. Grant funding from 1999 was extended until June 30, 2006 to cover some important projects that had experienced unavoidable delays. The Program was responsible for administering grants from 2000 through 2004. Seventeen new projects were implemented in the spring of 2005, totaling \$2.4 million. The program intends to bring in approximately 23 additional projects for 2006.
- Output 1b. The Program is currently administering 51 active projects through grants from 2000, 2001, 2002, 2003, 2004 and 2005. Project locations are displayed in Figure 1; a corresponding list of project names is presented by Table 1.
- Output 1c. The Program coordinated the development and funding of nineteen (19) new projects with base and incremental funding in 2005. Encompassed within these new projects were fifteen (15) agricultural pollution reduction projects, two (2) lakeshore stabilization projects, one (1) municipal low impact development storm water treatment project, and one (1) logging road sediment reduction project. The Program redirected about \$500,000 from closing three grants, 1997-1999, to new projects, not all of which have been contracted.
- Output 1d. Thirty-two separate projects were closed-out in 2005 (see Table 11, page 61). Work products of interest for each of these closed projects, such as final reports, are available upon request. Between 13 and 15 additional projects are anticipated to wrap-up in 2006.



## Active Projects: FY 2000 - 2005

## Idaho Nonpoint Source Program

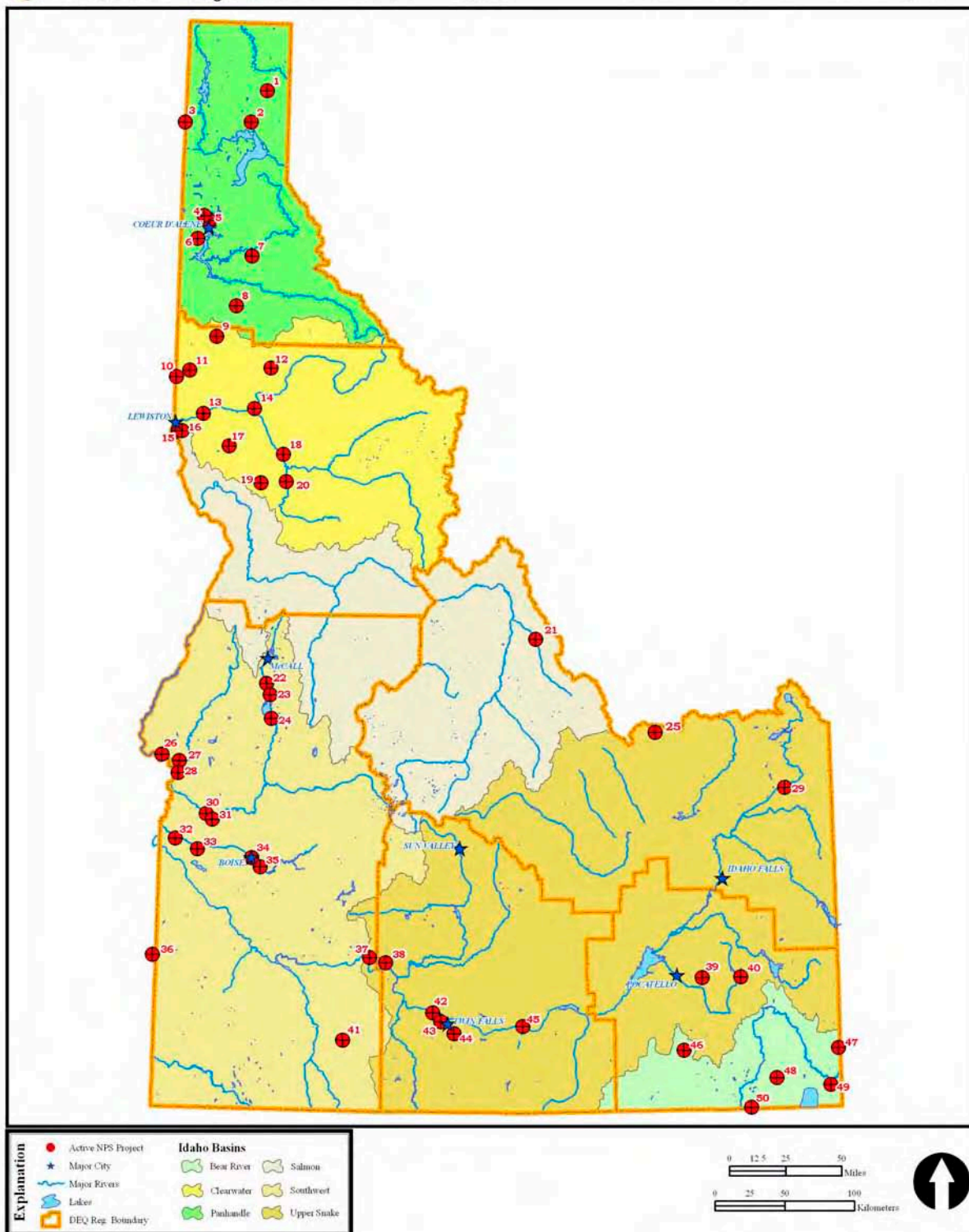


Figure 1. Active Nonpoint Source Program projects in Idaho.

**Table 1. Active NPS projects.**

<b>No.</b>	<b>Subgrant</b>	<b>Project</b>
1	S146	Twentymile Creek Habitat Restoration
2	S075	Pack River Watershed Sediment Reduction
3	S148	Bear Paw Sediment Yield Reduction Project
4	S147	Emerald Gardens
5	S081	Panhandle Health District Bioentention Basin
6	S091	Kid/Mica Creek
7	S149	Lower NF Clearwater Project 2
8	S095S	Santa Creek Streambank Protection & Stability, Phase 2
9	S105	Cow Creek Water Quality Improvement
10	S123	SF Palouse River Restoration
11	S143	Robinson Park, SF Restoration Project
12	S157	Partridge Creek Riparian Revegetation
13	S106	Potlatch Water Quality Improvement
14	S111	Lower N. Fork Clearwater TMDL, Phase 2
15	S072	Tammany Creek Watershed Imp.
16	S142	Tammany Creek BMP Demo Project
17	S069	N. Idaho AFO Project, Phase 2
18	S094S	Camas Prairie Groundwater Nitrate
19	S099S	S Fork of Cottonwood Creek TMDL Implementation, Phase 2
20	S144	Butcher/Three Mile Creek TMDL
21	S054	Lemhi Watershed TMDL Implementation
22	S077	Mud Creek BMP Implementation
23	S080	Gold Fork Watershed
24	S170	Cascade Reservoir Watershed Impl. Project, Phase 2
25	S051	Medicine Lodge Creek TMDL Implementation
26	S074	Weiser Water Quality Project
27	BRO	Scott Creek; Mann Creek BMPs for Groundwater
28	S145	Payette Clean Water Project, Middle Snake
29	S107	Ashton Groundwater Protection
30	S098S	Lower Payette River TMDL Implementation
31	S110	Gem County Storm Water Management Demonstration
32	S120	Jerrell Glenn Wetland Restoration
33	S130	Indian Creek LID Demonstration
34	S131	Downtown Boise Graywater Recycling Demonstration
35	S104	Boise River Side Channel Reconstruction
36	S141	Owyhee Restoration Incentive Project
37	S168	Y/Y9 Drain Elimination into Clover Creek
38	S129	Bliss Nitrate Priority Partnership
39	S023	Upper Rapid Creek Subwatershed Riparian
40	S008	Twentyfour-mile Creek TMDL implementation
41	S133	Clover Flats Riparian Restor. Project
42	S126	Jeff Woody Wetland
43	S139	O-Coulee Treatment Train
44	S127	Rock Creek Small Acreage Demonstration
45	S169	Restoration of Milner Lake Segment of Snake River
46	S150	Wrights Creek Stream Restoration Project
47	S108	Thomas Fork-Widmer Restoration
48	S171	Bear River AFO Demonstration Project
49	S151	Bear River Stream Bank Restoration
50	S018	Porter Riparian Restoration Cub River
51	S121	Idaho Home A Syst Program, Statewide

## Task 2: Develop policies and guidance materials

Output 2a. DEQ co-sponsored a set of meetings with the Idaho Soil Conservation Commission (SCC) during the fall and winter of 2005.

The meetings, which were heavily attended by staff from DEQ, SCC, and the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), as well as other federal and state agencies, focused on section 319 projects, TMDL planning and implementation, and the section 319 grant pre-application and application process.

The meetings were held in Pocatello, Twin Falls, Boise, Lewiston, Idaho Falls, and Coeur d'Alene. Attendance ranged from 20 to over 35 participants. These meetings provided an excellent opportunity for pre-application packets to be reviewed with each of the six DEQ regions. Discussions were productive and assisted in furthering the prospect for applications to be submitted for the 2007 funding cycle. This process resulted in the creation of an interagency work group tasked with simplifying and streamlining the application and making it available on the Web. At this writing, the group has met and a first draft of the new application has been created. The goal of the workgroup is to finalize the new application and have it accessible via the Web in time for the 2008 application cycle.

Output 2b. The NPS Program revised, updated, and greatly expanded its Web presence on the DEQ home page. The Program Web site is fully functional and comprehensive and serves as an educational tool. The *Field Evaluation Annual Report – 2004*, added to the Web site in the spring of 2005, includes 177 pages of photographs and text describing the status of 24 projects that were field evaluated during 2004:

[http://www.deq.idaho.gov/water/data\\_reports/surface\\_water/nps/reports.cfm#field](http://www.deq.idaho.gov/water/data_reports/surface_water/nps/reports.cfm#field)

Output 2c. In September 2005, DEQ issued the request for pre-applications for FY2007 CWA, section 319 funding to over 350 individuals representing qualified agencies and groups. The deadline for submitting pre-applications was October 15, 2005.

DEQ received 35 pre-applications plus twelve other separate inquiries for informal review and comment. The dollar amount associated with the 35 pre-applications exceeded \$5 million.

The pre-applications were reviewed and responded to within a sixty-day timeframe. DEQ State Office NPS Program staff met with regional DEQ staff, as well as staff from the Idaho Soil Conservation Commission, the Natural Resource Conservation Service, the Idaho Association of Soil Conservation Districts (IASCD), and many pre-applicants to discuss project concepts. The majority of comments and general discussion with agencies and pre-applicants was intended to improve the quality of formal applications.

Over 90% of the pre-applications were invited to submit a formal application, while the remaining 10% were either deferred to an alternative funding source or rejected due to lacking sufficient technical merit.

Formal funding application submittals were given a February 6, 2006 deadline. All applications for project funding will continue to be subject to a stringent regional review process to ensure that proposals meet federal and state guidelines, are consistent with the

1999 NPS Plan, and also meet statewide/regional needs for the restoration of beneficial uses. Like the previous grant cycle, an additional month has been made available to ensure that watershed and basin advisory groups have sufficient time to review and comment on all regional projects requesting funding.

### **Task 3: Revise existing NPS MOUs**

Output 3a. A contract was let by DEQ in February 2005 to a local consulting firm for assistance in completing this task. Work products completed include compiling a list of participating agencies with respective contact information, interviewing and meeting with the involved agencies in June 2005, and summarizing all comments received in a July report to DEQ. Shortly after the report was prepared, two key DEQ personnel assigned to this effort either left the department or were reassigned. Further contractor work languished while awaiting guidance from the Program on how to proceed. Personnel are now in place at DEQ to continue this work as a priority for completion in 2006.

### **Task 4: Annual NPS Monitoring Workshop**

Output 4a. Funding was made available to ensure continuance of the Idaho Nonpoint Source Water Quality Monitoring Results Workshop on an annual basis. The sixteenth workshop was held at Boise State University January 3-5, 2006<sup>1</sup>.

Investigators made 34 oral presentations. Topics included the monitoring of bacteria, temperature and fine-grained sediment; endangered and invasive snails; physical and biological responses to stream restoration; total dissolved gas; project funding; ground water; and fish. Methods were presented for calculating temperature loads in TMDLs and estimating stream bank seepage. Ten posters were presented during the workshop, along with commercial displays.

A nonpoint source load reduction estimation session was conducted concurrent with the workshop. Twenty-seven people from federal, state, and county level governments, along with non-governmental organizations, attended. After an introduction of the section 319 programs and EPA database requirements, a presentation of direct volume calculations and Best Management Practice (BMP) effectiveness modeling, including the Spreadsheet Tool for Estimating Pollutant Loads (STEPL) and the Region 5 model, took place. The next presentation covered models, including the Revised Universal Soil Loss Equation (RUSLE) and the Surface Irrigation Soil Loss (SISL) equation and their applications to cropland. The final presentation discussed WinEPIC modeling results for a specific watershed and its load reduction calculations.

Conference sponsors included the Boise State University Biology Department, Idaho Department of Fish and Game, Idaho Department of Agriculture, Idaho Department of Lands, U.S. Agricultural Research Service, U.S. Bureau of Land Management, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, U.S. Geological Survey, U.S. Forest Service, Idaho Power Company, EcoAnalysts, Inc., Electronic Data Solutions, CH2M Hill, Hach Environmental, and DEQ.

Attendees at the workshop totaled 182.

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<sup>1</sup> Although this workshop was held in 2006, the preparatory work and most of the projects discussed took place in 2005.

**Task 5: Facilitate discussion on TMDL implementation activities for urban watersheds; provide contractor to coordinate dialogue in the pacific northwest and sponsor statewide conference**

Output 5a. DEQ determined that this task is not congruent with DEQ environmental priorities. Therefore, this task has been eliminated.

**Task 6: On-ground review of existing nonpoint source projects**

Output 6a. The Program evaluated over half of the on-going projects around the state. Twenty-six of 50 subgrant agreements, covering 24 projects, were evaluated in the field during 2005.

**Task 7: Integration of NPS activities into the State Revolving Fund Program**

Output 7a. No rules were developed. All NPS loans were closed out in early 2004. The NPS Program did support the State Revolving Fund (SRF) Loan Program by providing extensive information and references to support the NPS portion of the Needs Survey, which was due in early 2005; program staff evaluated two NPS projects for the SRF Priority List.

**Task 8: Statewide technical support, education, and information transfer on TMDL implementation activities with an emphasis on urban watersheds.**

Output 8a. DEQ continues to offer strong technical support to TMDL activities, including urban watersheds.

**Task 9: Submit FY2004 Report to Congress to EPA.**

Output 9a. This task was completed in early 2005; the report can be viewed at the following:  
[http://www.deq.idaho.gov/water/data\\_reports/surface\\_water/nps/reports.cfm#congress](http://www.deq.idaho.gov/water/data_reports/surface_water/nps/reports.cfm#congress)

**Task 10: Coordinate, review, and distribute completed annual report for NPS Program.**

Output 10a. This 2005 Performance and Progress Report is hereby submitted to the Region 10, NPS Program Coordinator.